THREE

BY FUYUMI SOURYO

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

DRAGON VOICE

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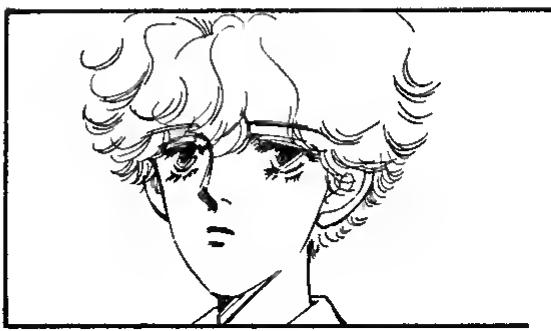
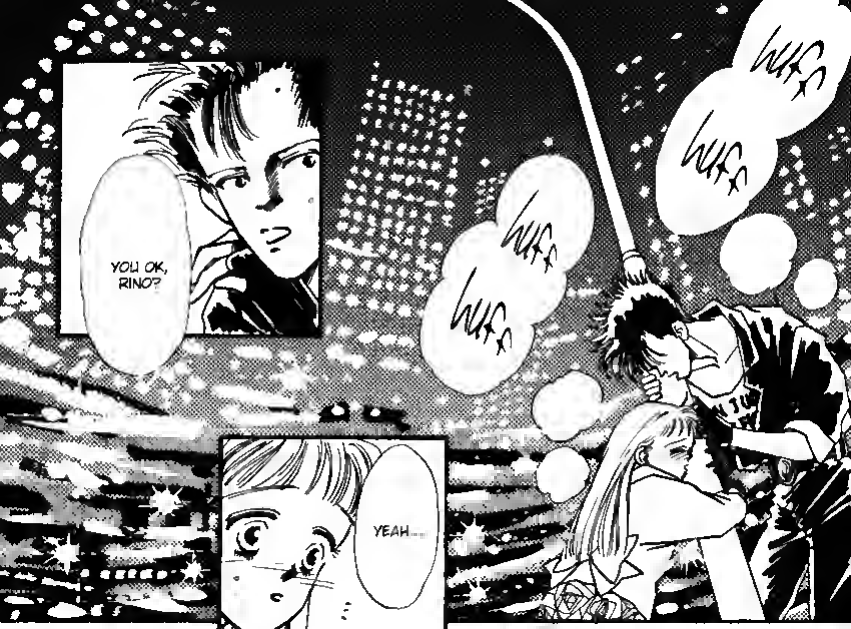


RINO!
RYUU-CHAN.

HEY! CALL THE COPS! THE COPS!
CUT IT OUT!
HEY! QUIT IT!
CRAP
C'MON, RINO! WE'RE OUTTA HERE!!
DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS RIOT!

WEEOO
WEEOO
WEEOO
WEEOO


YOU OK, RINO?
YEAH...
WAIT, WHERE'S THE WOMAN YOU BROUGHT?
CRAP! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HER
AFT

AHHAHAHA
KIAHAH
THAT'S SO YOU, RYUU-CHAN!
HA
AH
HA
YOU BET!
HEE
HAHA
AH HA HA ...
HA HA ...
HA...

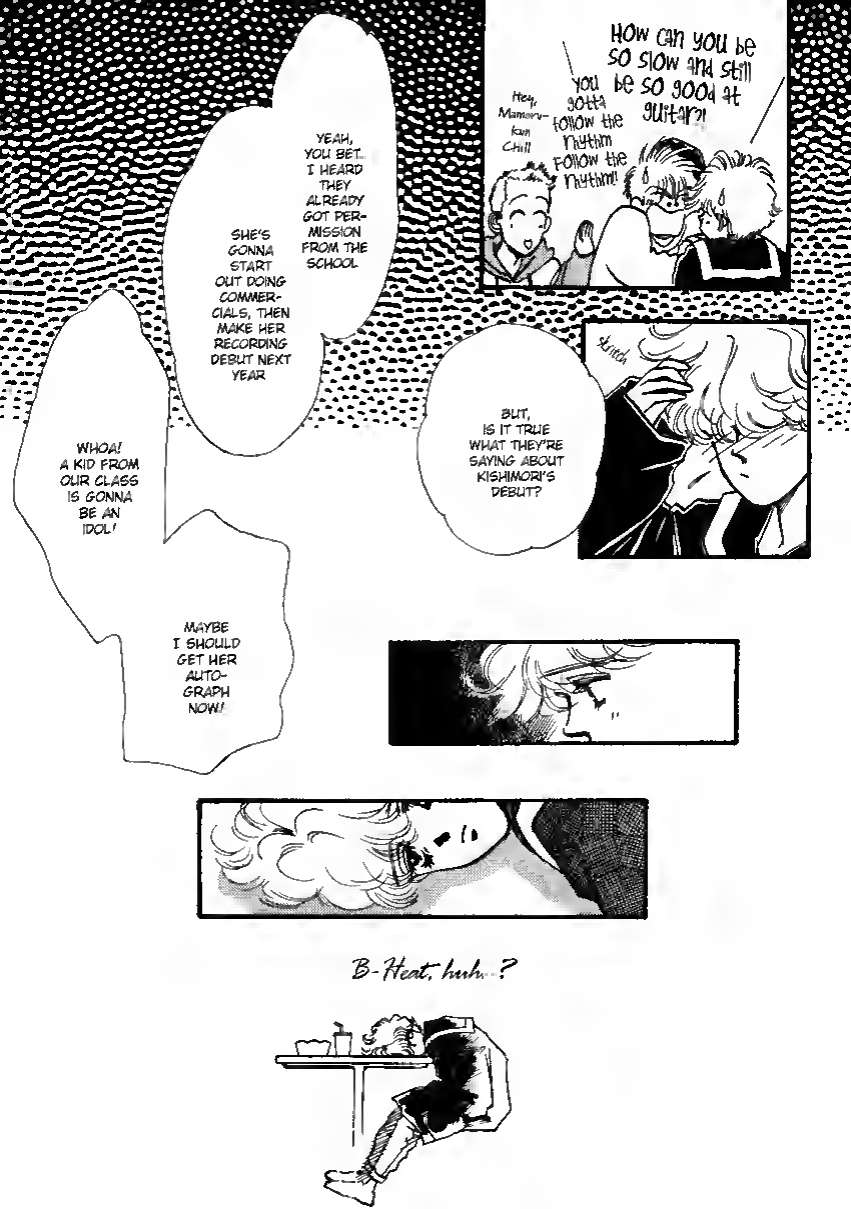
I'm not crying because the fight was scary.
It's because Ryuu-chan...
I'M GONNA BE IN DEEP SHIT WITH YOUR MOM IF I MAKE YOU CRY AGAIN...
DON'T CRY.
DON'T CRY.
I GOT YOU CAUGHT UP IN SOME-THING SCARY.
FOR-GIVE ME.
SORRY.
Fickle Ryuu-chan is only nice to me because I'm his cousin...
we're connected by blood, though we're not that closely related.
That's...
...what I realized tonight.
DON'T CRY, RINO

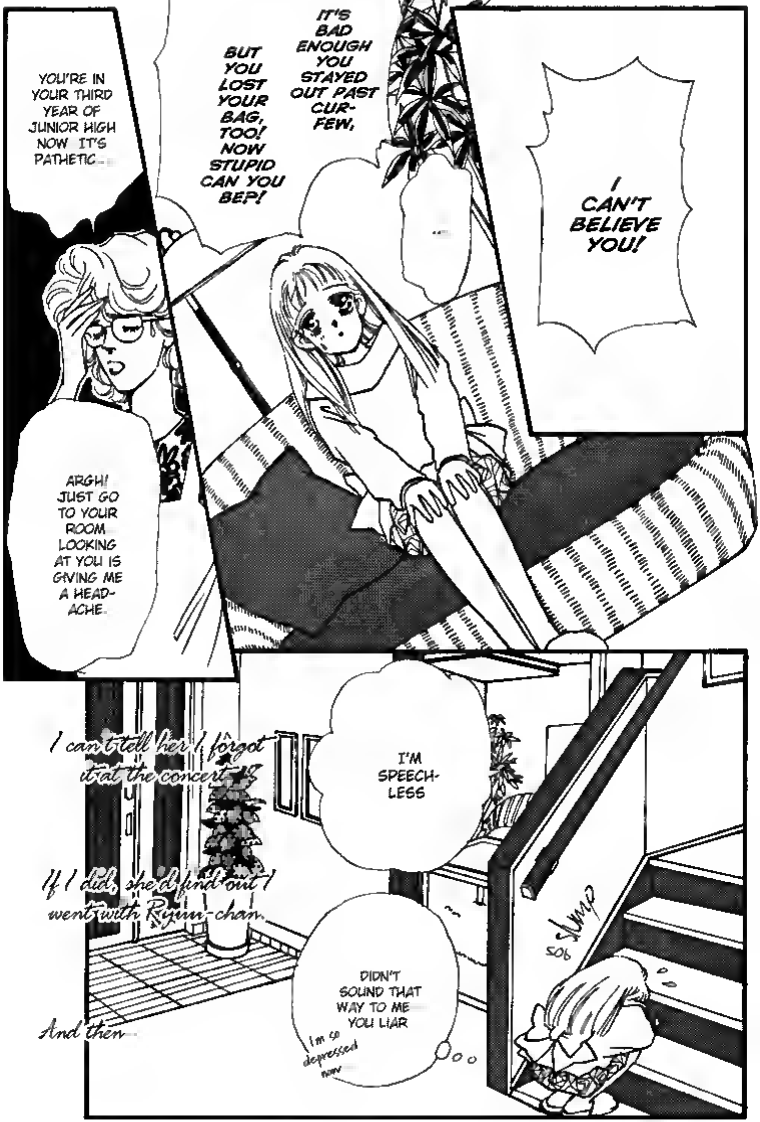
HE LOOKED LIKE A CHICK
EVEN THOUGH HE'S STILL JUST A SHRIMP THAT GUITAR PLAYER...
No matter how much I wish for it,
I'll
never be one of Ryuu-chan's special girls.
DON'T WORRY, MAN. IT'S ALL COOL THEY'LL NEVER TRACE IT BACK TO US
BUT THE COPS CAME AND EVERY-THING. YOU SURE IT'S OK? WHAT IF THE SCHOOL FINDS OUT?
A FIGHT DURING OUR CONCERT! JUST THINK HOW GREAT THAT'S GONNA BE FOR OUR REP, GUYS!
MAN, WHAT A GIG!
YEAH. WE WEREN'T THE ONES WHO STARTED IT ANYWAY.
IT FREAKED ME OUT, THOUGH! I ALMOST PISSED MYSELF!

C'MON, LET'S GO GRAB A BITE!!
Mickey D's? I'm partial to burgers
WHAT'S THAT, NAKANOME?
THAT'S A GIRL'S PURSE
I PICKED IT UP
DURING THE CONCERT? ARE YOU SHITTIN' ME?
HA HA HA!
IT LOOKS WAY TOO NORMAL ON YOU
HM-HMM. TALK ABOUT CAMP!

LET'S SEE... KI-SHI-MO-RI
HEY, THIS LOOKS LIKE A TRAIN PASS.
7.30
YOU SURE IT'S OK TO OPEN IT?
HOW ELSE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT WHOSE IT IS?
KISHIMORI RINO?!
SO... KAMIARISUMI-SAN MIGHT'VE BEEN THERE, TOO?
BOO-YAH!
KISHIMORI... IS SHE THAT GIRL WHO'S RELATED TO KAMIARISUMI FROM B-HEAT?
MOS BURGE
WHO'S KAMIARISUMI...?

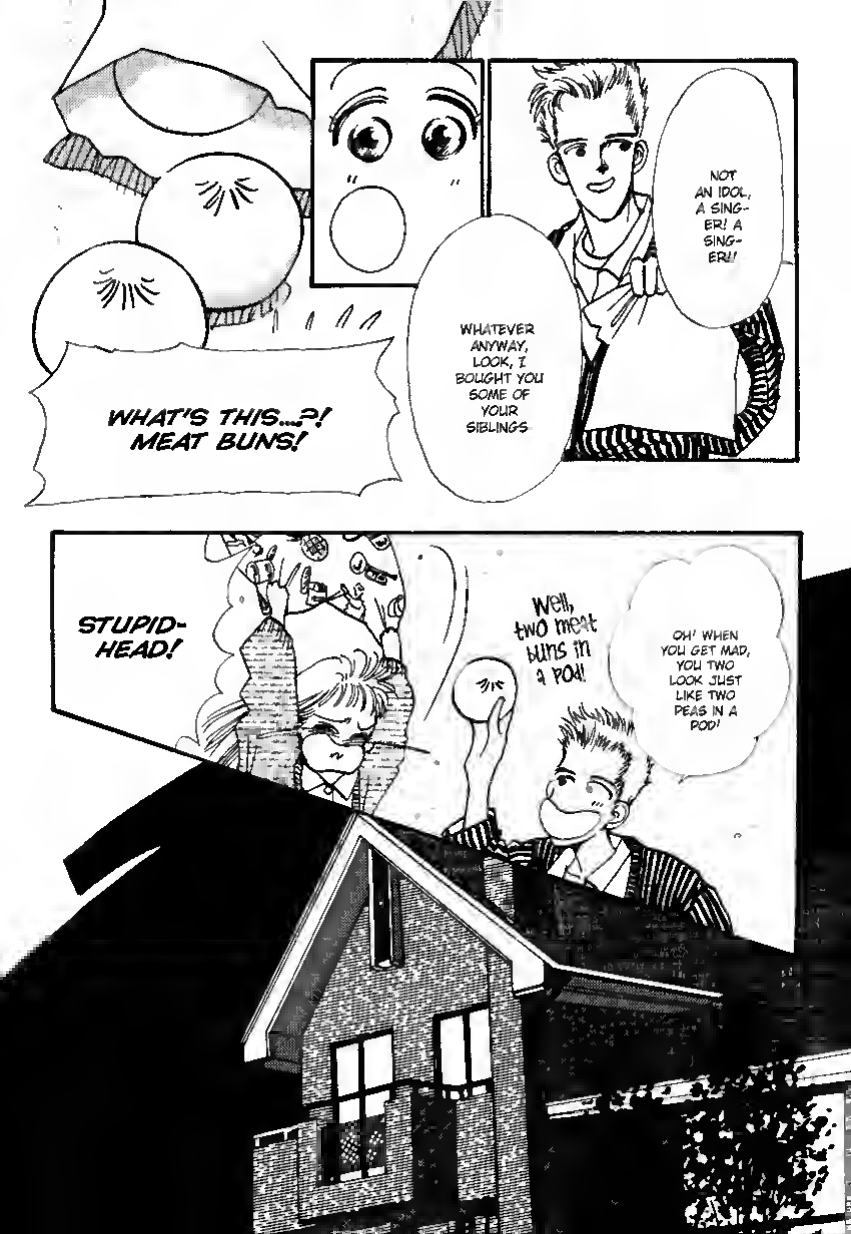
"RYUU-CHAN."
RYUUICHI —?
WHAT, YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF KAMIARISUMI RYUUICHI?
HE'S THE VOCALIST OF B-HEAT. THEY ARE PRETTY FAMOUS AROUND THESE PARTS.
THEY'RE STILL JUST IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT THEIR CONCERTS ARE ROCKIN'! THEY'RE THE BOMB!
NAKA-NOME?
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
HUH? WHAT?
GIVE IT UP. HE'S OFF IN HIS OWN LITTLE WORLD.


How can you be so slow and still be so good at guitar?!
Hey, Mamoru-kun Chill
You gotta follow the rhythm follow the rhythm!
YEAH, YOU BET. I HEARD THEY ALREADY GOT PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL
SHE'S GONNA START OUT DOING COMMERCIALS, THEN MAKE HER RECORDING DEBUT NEXT YEAR
WHOA! A KID FROM OUR CLASS IS GONNA BE AN IDOL!
MAYBE I SHOULD GET HER AUTOGRAPH NOW!
Gyuttch
BUT, IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT KISHIMORI'S DEBUT?
B-Heat, huh..?


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU STAYED OUT PAST CURFEW,
BUT YOU LOST YOUR BAG, TOO! NOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?!
YOU'RE IN YOUR THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH NOW IT'S PATHETIC
ARGH! JUST GO TO YOUR ROOM LOOKING AT YOU IS GIVING ME A HEADACHE
I'M SPEECHLESS
I can't tell her I forgot it at the concert
If I did, she'd find out I went with Ryuu-chan
And then...
DIDN'T SOUND THAT WAY TO ME YOU LIAR
I'm so depressed now
SOB
slump

*Note...cute. A cute, familiar way to address one's brother.

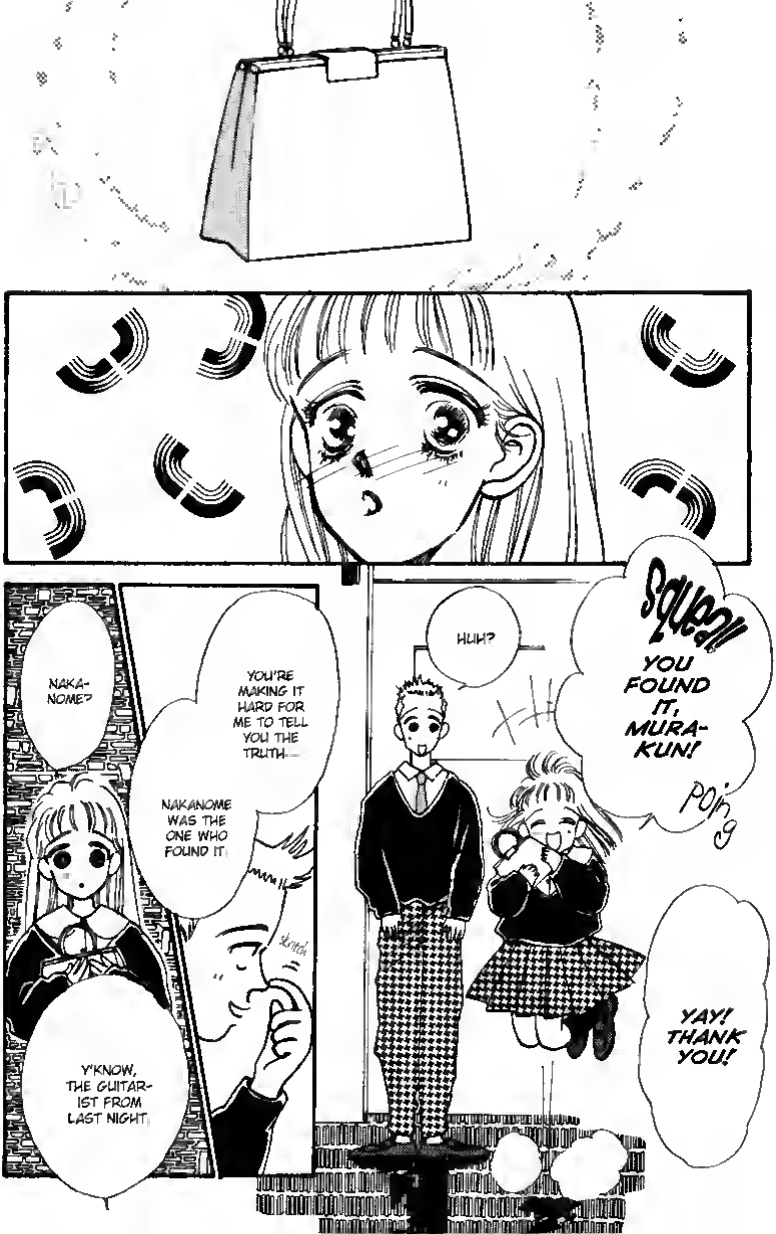
ONII-CHAN*
K-CHK
HEY, RINO
And then she'd get even madder.
KNOCK KNOCK
I don't know why, but Mom absolutely hates him.
HEARD YOU GOT IN LATE. MOM IS IN FINE FORM.
AREN'T YOU GONNA BE AN IDOL FIRST, STUPID?
I WANNA GROW UP QUICK SO I CAN BE A COLLEGE STUDENT, TOO.
YEAH. YOU'RE SO LUCKY... YOU DON'T HAVE A CURFEW.


WHAT'S THIS...?! MEAT BUNS!
WHATEVER ANYWAY, LOOK, I BOUGHT YOU SOME OF YOUR SIBLINGS
NOT AN IDOL, A SING-ER! A SING-ER!!
STUPID-HEAD!
Well, two meat buns in a pod!
OH! WHEN YOU GET MAD, YOU TWO LOOK JUST LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD!

That boy

really did

..have a kind face,
like that of a girl's.

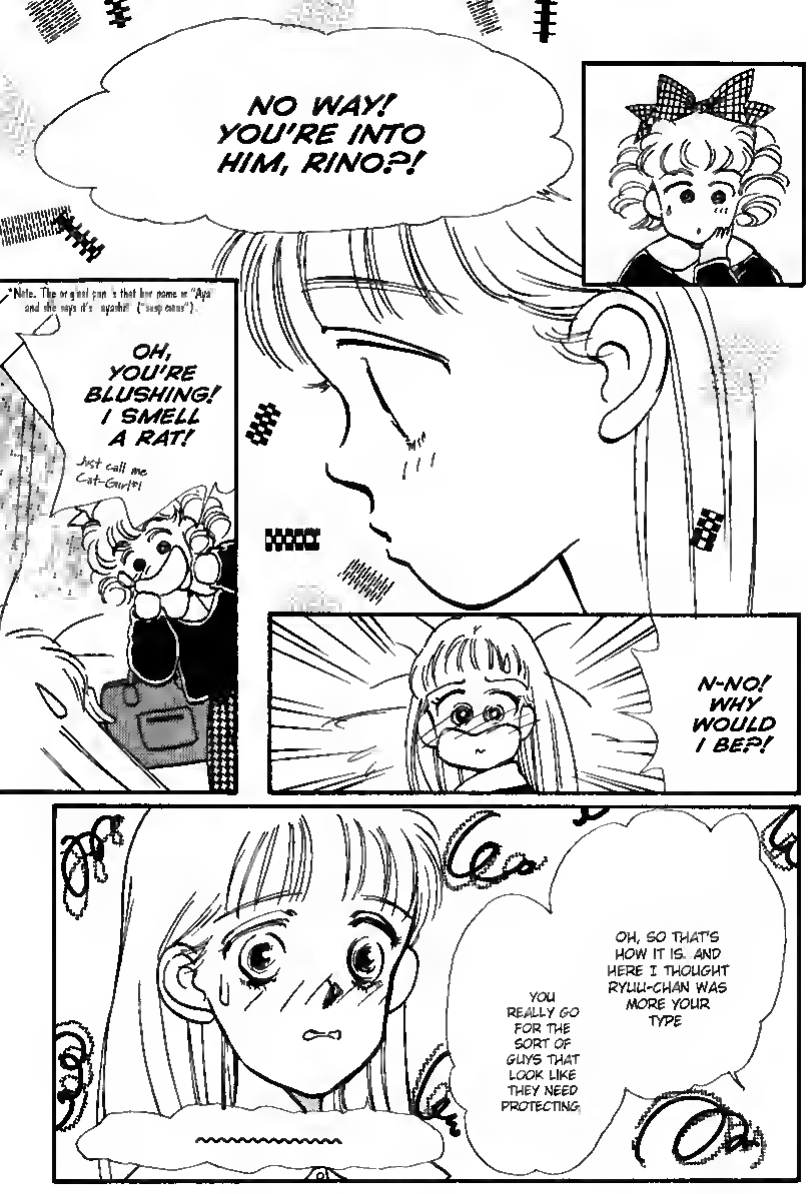

Squeal!!
YOU FOUND IT, MURA-KUN!
HUH?
YOU'RE MAKING IT HARD FOR ME TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
NAKANOME WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND IT.
NAKA-NOME?
Y'KNOW, THE GUITAR-IST FROM LAST NIGHT.
YAY! THANK YOU!

I MET HIM AT WORK DURING SPRING BREAK, THOUGH.
SINCE WE WERE IN THE SAME SCHOOL, AND HE WAS A GUITARIST, I ASKED HIM TO JOIN THE BAND.
Oh! This is off the record, though. Don't tell the school administration about my job.
Oh
Him
WHICH SCHOOL DOES HE GO TO?
Oh!
WHICH SCHOOL? OURS. HE'S IN CLASS 1 WITH ME.

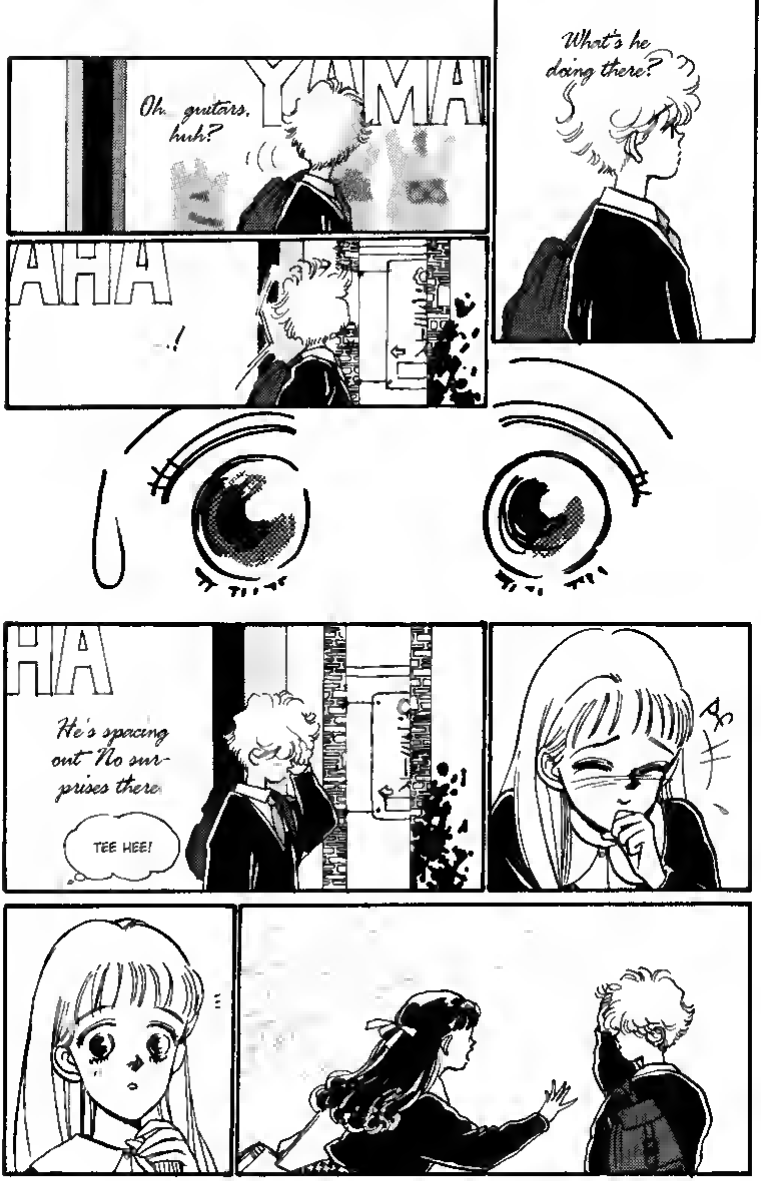
ISN'T HE AN AWESOME GUITARIST? WHEN I LISTENED TO HIM PLAY, I HEARD THE LIGHT.
DON'T YOU MEAN *SAW* THE LIGHT?
HE JUST NEEDS ONE GLANCE AT A SCORE, AND HE'S GOOD TO GO. HE IMPRESSED ME.
HE'D NEVER BEEN IN A BAND BEFORE, BUT HE HAD A SYNTHESIZER. I THINK HE'D BEEN WRITING SONGS ON HIS OWN.

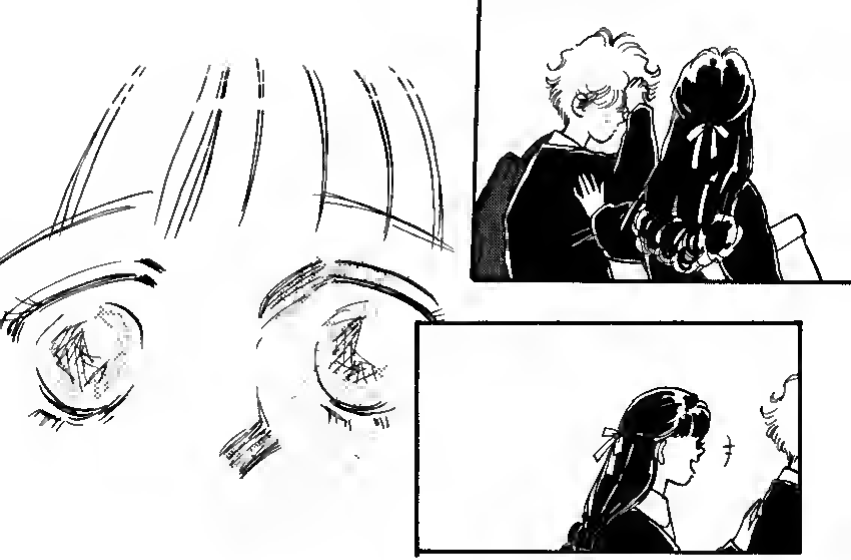
NAKANOME?
YOU MEAN NAKANOME KEI?
YOU KNOW HIM, ANA-CHAN?
HE WAS IN MY CLASS BACK IN FIRST YEAR
BUT HE'S SO PLAIN... HE DIDN'T REALLY STAND OUT
HE WAS ALWAYS SPACING OUT, TOO
"Plain?" I don't think so.
That night,
he stood out a lot more than Kikuchi-kun, the rocker.

GUYS HAVE TO BE COOL
SURE, HE HAS AN INTERESTING, CUTE FACE. BUT I DON'T LIKE THAT MIXED LOOK
BUT RYUU-CHAN ISN'T NICE
Y'KNOW, LIKE RYUU-CHAN
NO, NAKA-NOME-KUN.
A thank-you gift
GETTING A PRESENT FOR RYUU-CHAN?
BUT HE ALREADY HAS TEN.
I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS HE'S COOL. I WANNA BE HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING THE ELEVENTH
WHAT COLOR AND STUFF...
I WONDER WHAT HE LIKES...
WHAT SORT OF STUFF DO GUYS WANT?


NO WAY! YOU'RE INTO HIM, RINO?!
*Note. The original pun is that her name is "Aya" and she says it's "ayashii" ("suspicious").
OH, YOU'RE BLUSHING! I SMELL A RAT!
Just call me Cat-Girl!
N-NO! WHY WOULD I BE?!
OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS. AND HERE I THOUGHT RYUU-CHAN WAS MORE YOUR TYPE
YOU REALLY GO FOR THE SORT OF GUYS THAT LOOK LIKE THEY NEED PROTECTING

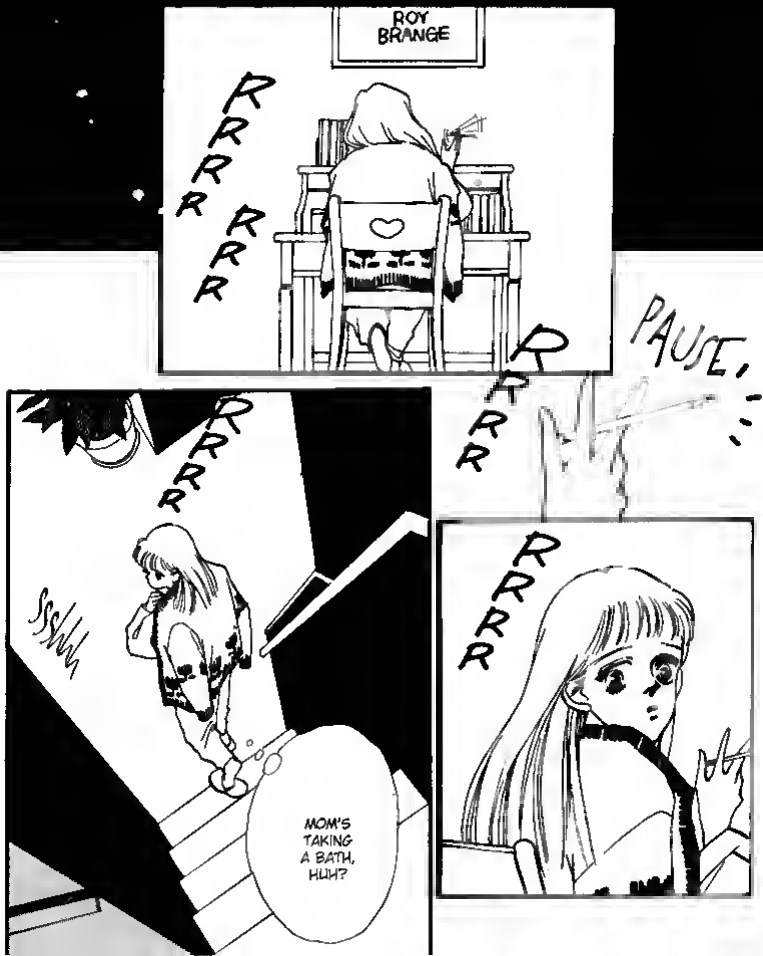
BADUMP
Geez! Gimme a break, Aya-chan!
I'm grateful to him, that's all
Will you never stop jumping to conclusions?!
Nakamome-kun?!
YAP
I LIKE HER A LOT, ASIDE FROM THAT
That light-brown hair...
it is him.
OH, GEEZ! AYA-CHAN HAD TO GO AND SAY ALL THAT WEIRD STUFF! NOW I'M ALL NERVOUS ABOUT IT

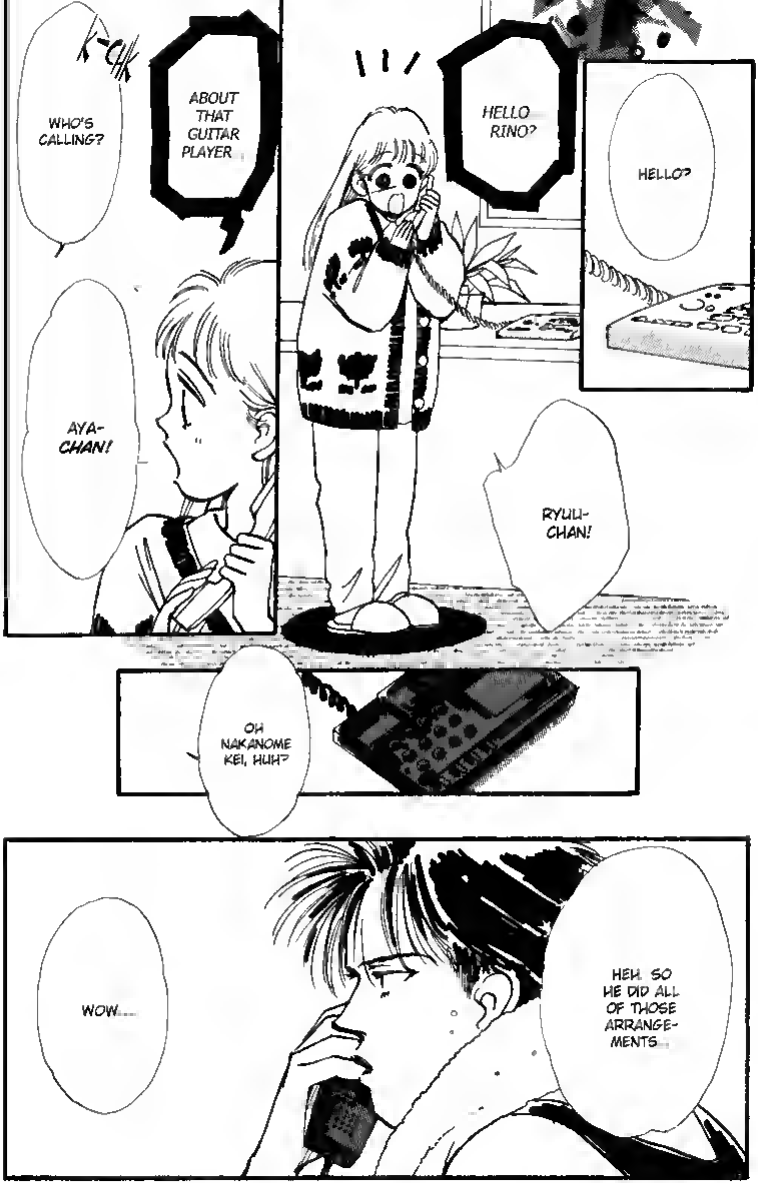

What's he doing there?
YAMA
Oh, guitars, huh?
AHA
-!
HA
He's spacing out. No surprises there.
TEE HEE!



Oh...

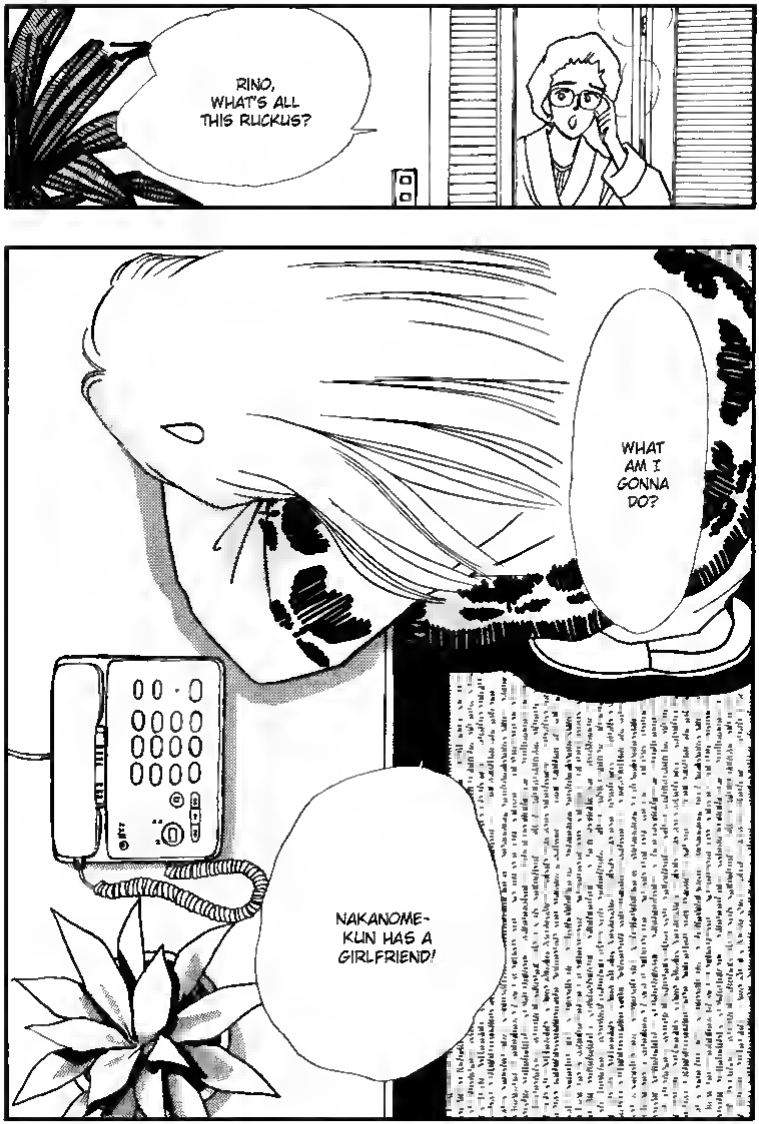
He has a girlfriend...




K-CHK
WHO'S CALLING?
ABOUT THAT GUITAR PLAYER
HELLO RINO?
HELLO?
AYA-CHAN!
RYUU-CHAN!
OH NAKANOME KEI, HUH?
WOW...
HEH, SO HE DID ALL OF THOSE ARRANGE-MENTS...

HUH ?!
OH, WELL ...
HM?
ANY-WAY, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HARDLY EVER CALL, RYUU-CHAN.
YOU WANT ME TO BRING NAKANOME-KUN TO A B-HEAT CONCERT?
BUT... I-I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM...
DON'T WORRY.

NO GUY'S GONNA TURN DOWN A GIRL WHO INVITES HIM OUT. ESPECIALLY NOT IF IT'S YOU.
Wha-?!
WAIT! BUT NAKANOME-KUN HAS...
IT'S AT CHEEP HIP, AT 6 SEE YA.
CLICK
BOOP
GEEZ! DON'T ASSUME EVERY GUY'S LIKE YOU!
SLUMP


RINO, WHAT'S ALL THIS RUCKUS?
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
NAKANOME-KUN HAS A GIRLFRIEND!